Indigenous Influences on Park Design and Planning

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Blood Run National Historic Landmark in Iowa and South Dakota is a sacred site to the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, Ioway tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, Ioway Tribe of Oklahoma, Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Indians, and Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma.
Glacier Point Trailside Museum was one of the first projects in Yosemite National Park by Herbert Maier in what would become the National Park Service Rustic style. (Google image)
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Yellowstone’s North Gate, the iconic Roosevelt Arch, 1903
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Kiva, Casa Rinconada Community, Chaco Culture NHP, NM
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Indigenous Culture
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Natural Resources

In the early 1900s, felling California’s redwoods was considered an amazing feat of manpower rather than the destruction of a significant resource. Photo: old-chum.com.

Cultural Resources

Colorado ranchers exploring Mesa Verde in 1888. Photo: Dallas Morning News photography blog.
The Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation is an inter-disciplinary professional organization which provides a forum for communication and exchange of information among its members. It is dedicated to the preservation and conservation of historic landscapes in all their variety, from formal gardens and public parks to rural expanses.
Resources

https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/four-treatments/landscape-guidelines/

https://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/cultural-landscapes.htm
Meet with tribal members at their tribal lands to better understand their perspective.
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Omaha Tribe of Nebraska Council Headquarters, Macy Nebraska

Entrance of Earth Lodge at the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Cultural Center in Niobrara, Nebraska

Ponca Elder Larry Wright, Senior in the Earth Lodge at the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Cultural Center in Niobrara, Nebraska
Huthuga and Seasonal Rounds help explain holistic concept of landscape and culture.
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Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Director of Cultural Affairs (formerly) Randy Teboe and Tribal Elder Larry Wright, Senior discussing Blood Run with project team.
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Ecological Resource Management

- Bio-reserve
- Bison herd
- Prairie / savanna restoration
- Watershed management

Bison... “create an ecological domino effect, a cascading series of benefits for the preserve’s other native species – plants, but also insects, birds, amphibians, reptiles, even small mammals.” LAM 11/2015
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Effigy Mounds National Monument, Harpers Ferry, Iowa
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Large center of trade and culture at Blood Run, ca. 1250 - ca. 1750

Historical Conditions at Blood Run

Rural Iowa farming community, 1851-1969
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Site Investigation
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Blood Run Site Capacity and Framework
Project workshop and consultation meeting with tribal members.
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Iowa Blood Run Cultural Landscape Master Plan consultation and stakeholder activities.
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Physical Planning

Iowa

South Dakota
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Iowa Blood Run Cultural Landscape Master Plan consultation and stakeholder activities.
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Core Area Interpretive Trails and connections to themes.
A Starting Point for Inclusion of Native Americans in Planning and Design for Cultural Landscapes

1. Develop on-going relationships with tribes.
2. Discuss project plans with tribal representatives before developing a scope of work.
3. Work with formal representatives of tribes (designated by the tribal government).
4. Go to visit tribes to better understand their perspective.
5. Ask tribal representatives how they would like to work with you.
6. Include tribal representatives on your project team.
7. Build flexibility into the process to allow for adjustment based on tribal requests.
8. Visit the project site with tribal representatives.
9. Meet face to face whenever possible.
10. Ask specific questions, be open to unexpected answers.
11. Listen and adjust, based on what you hear.
12. Develop formal agreements for inclusion of tribal representatives in long-term review and guidance of site management and interpretation programs and use for traditional activities (gathering specific plants, ceremonies, etc...).
13. Incorporate native language into interpretation of the site.
14. Teach visitors how to be respectful.
Thank you